

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 8, 2003. Claims 1-40 are presented for examination and have been amended as to matters of form and/or to define Applicant's more clearly. Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, and 36 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

As an initial matter, a Claim To Priority and a certified copy of the priority document for the present application were submitted on November 18, 1999, as evidenced by the returned receipt postcard bearing the stamp of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, a copy of which is attached hereto. Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy.

The Office Action states that the drawings are objected to, because of the informalities noted in sections 1-5. Submitted herewith is a Letter Submitting Corrected Drawings along with replacement drawings of Figs. 10, 16, 23, 25-28, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 43, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 60, 64, 68, and 70-72, in which the noted informalities have been corrected. Applicant submits that the changes to the drawings add no new matter to the original disclosure.

The Office Action asserts that the specification is difficult to follow and requests that it be revised. Submitted herewith is a Substitute Specification in which certain typographical or clerical errors have been corrected. Applicant submits that the Substitute Specification adds no new matter to the original disclosure. A marked-up version of the original specification, showing the changes made thereto, also has been submitted herewith.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27,

31, 32, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,163,384 (Ota et al.); and that Claims 3-5, 8-10, 13-15, 18-20, 23-25, 28-30, 33-35, and 38-40 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ota et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,457 (Nakai et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, and 36, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by Ota et al. for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to an apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network. The apparatus includes registration means, input means, first and second authentication means, transmission means, and determination means.

The registration means is adapted to register, in advance, predetermined registration information for a user who is authorized to use the apparatus. The input means is used by the user to enter user information and a request for the first operating instruction for the different apparatus. The first authentication means is adapted to employ the predetermined registration information registered by the registration means and the user information entered by the user at the input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user.

Based on results obtained by the first authentication means, the transmission means transmits to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered at the input means. The second authentication means is adapted to obtain

from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from the transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different apparatus. The determination means is adapted to employ the results obtained by the second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the service

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that two operating instructions are performed, based on two authentications. More specifically, the claimed apparatus, which may be a local apparatus, performs the first operating instruction after the first authentication means determines that the first operating instruction is authorized for the user. The different apparatus, which may be a remote apparatus, performs the second operating instruction after the second authentication means determines from results obtained from the different apparatus that the second operating instruction is authorized the user on the different apparatus. By virtue of such a feature, it can be easily confirmed whether a user has authorization for multiple instructions that are distributed to multiple apparatuses connected to a network, e.g., when multiple apparatuses are combined to perform a service for the user.¹

Ota et al. relates to a system for providing print-output security in a network environment. As understood by Applicant, Ota et al. teaches that authentication means is provided in an authentication server. A determination is made as to whether a local apparatus or the authentication server is to perform an authentication for a predetermined process in the local

¹ The examples provided herein are intended for illustrative purposes. The present invention is not limited to the illustrative examples or any details discussed therewith.

apparatus. That is, authentication is performed only for a process of the local apparatus.

Nothing has been found in Ota et al. that is believed to teach or suggest an apparatus that performs a service provided by a first operating instruction and a second operating instruction in association with a different apparatus accessible across a network, wherein the apparatus includes "first authentication means for employing the predetermined registration information registered by said registration means and the user information entered by the user at said input means to determine whether the first operating instruction is authorized for the user," and "transmission means for, based on results obtained by said first authentication means, transmitting to the different apparatus the second operating instruction and the user information entered at said input means," and "second authentication means for obtaining from the different apparatus results of an authentication process, performed for the user information received from said transmission means, to determine whether the second operating instruction is authorized for the user on the different apparatus," and "determination means for employing the results obtained by said second authentication means to determine whether the user is to be permitted to use the service," as recited in Claim 1.

As discussed above, the Ota et al. system is understood to perform an authentication only for a process of the local apparatus, but is not understood to disclose or suggest that an apparatus (e.g., a local apparatus) performs a first operating instruction after a first authentication and a different apparatus (e.g., a remote apparatus) performs a second operating instruction after a second authentication.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Ota et al.

and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent Claims 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, and 36 include features similar to those discussed above, and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the above reasons.

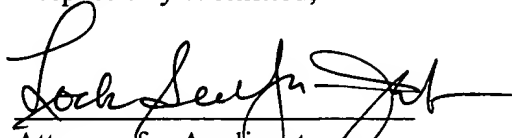
The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant
Lock See Yu - FITZPATRICK
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Atty. Docket 35013715

Application No. 09/38600

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